

The Great War -- 1121th Day

Teutons Drive Russians Back Along the Sereth

Kaiser's Forces Capture 54
Officers, 3,500 Men and
Many Guns

Mackensen's Loss Big

Improved Morale Shown by
New Russia's Soldiers;
Retreat Slowly

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Continued success for the Teuton advance in lower Moldavia is reported in the German official statement to-day. In a sudden stroke along the Sereth River the Austro-German troops are said to have driven the defending forces across the stream, taking fifty-four officers, some of them French, 3,500 men, sixteen cannons and fifty machine guns.

It is clear that a Russo-Rumanian retreat is in progress out of the whole angle between the Trotsus and the Sereth valleys. Petrograd also announces a "strategic withdrawal" to the Sovetsk-Monastirsk-Voloshkani line in northern Moldavia, where the Teutons are renewing their attack.

In the mountains south of the Trotsus River, Berlin says that the Austrian pursuing contingents broke repeated rear guard attacks by the Rumanians, while in the region north of Fokshani, on the Stracani-Pantau front, von Mackensen's Prussian and Bavarian regiments withstood repeated onslaughts by fresh Russian detachments brought up from the reserves.

Though the Russian and Rumanian allies have been worsted in the series of battles begun to force them east of the Sereth River they have not displayed the demoralization characteristic of the Russian armies in Galicia. Von Mackensen's campaign, brilliantly conducted practically without reserves, has been costly one, with advances of not more than half a mile at a time.

After every forward movement, made possible only after bitter fighting, he has had to ward off counterattacks in which he has often lost half as many prisoners as he has captured. Consequently experts here believe that the German advance may die even before Jassy, the temporary Rumanian capital, falls.

Official Statements

West BRITISH

LONDON, Aug. 16 (DAY).—At 4:45 o'clock this morning the (Entente) Allied troops again attacked on a wide front east and north of Ypres.

Heavy fighting is taking place, but progress is being made at all points in spite of the stubborn resistance of the enemy.

On the Lens battlefield three more counterattacks made by the enemy last night against our positions were repulsed. A host of prisoners was taken by our artillery.

(NIGHT).—The Allied attacks delivered early in the morning on a front of nine miles south of the Ypres-Broome road have been continued during the day in the face of strong enemy resistance.

On the left the French troops, advancing on both sides of the Zuydchoote-Dixmude road, drove the enemy from the tongue of land between the Canal and Martineau and captured the bridgehead of Dreigachten.

In the center the British troops rapidly captured their first objectives and, continuing their advance, carried the village of Langemark after heavy fighting. They then forced their way forward for a distance of half a mile beyond the village and established themselves in the German trench system, which constituted their final objective for the day.

On our right there has been fierce and continuous fighting since the early morning for the possession of the high ground north of the Menin road. The enemy disputed our advance with determined counterattacks.

At the result of the counterattacks in this area part of the ground was regained in the day.

This evening further enemy counterattacks in this neighborhood were repulsed by our artillery fire. The number of prisoners taken by the Allies in the course of the attack cannot yet be ascertained, but over 1,000, including thirty-eight officers, already have been brought in. A few German guns also were captured.

Our troops made further progress this afternoon east of Loos. The number of troops captured on this front since the start of our attack yesterday has now reached a total of 896, including twenty-two officers.

FRENCH

PARIS, Aug. 16.—(DAY).—In Belgium, after violent and most thorough artillery preparation, we made an attack at dawn this morning in conjunction with the British army on our right. With superb spirit our infantry made the assault on the enemy positions on both sides of the road between Bessene and Dixmude, capturing all objectives and crossing the Steenbeke. Our troops are making progress on the right bank, in contact with our allies.

South of Arras a vigorous attack made us master of a system of trenches on a front of one kilometer which was held strongly by the enemy. Four German counterattacks on our new positions were repulsed easily, and prisoners, one of them an officer, all were taken. In the region of the Hurthele Monument we also made progress, taking a score of prisoners.

In the Champagne and on both banks of the Meuse heavy artillery fighting continues. We made a surprise attack near Louvemont, taking seven prisoners. There is nothing of importance to report on the remainder of the front.

Our bombing airplanes last night and this morning threw many bombs on enemy positions north and east of the Houthulst Forest and also on the railway station at Lutterveld.

During our attack in the region of Arras and Hurthele our aviators were not deterred by the bad weather from flying very close to the ground, as our infantry moved forward, and turning their machine guns on the soldiers and reserves of the enemy.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Aug. 16.—(DAY).—Front of the Crown Prince Rupprecht: In Flanders a most great battle has burst forth. The artillery duel, which yesterday again rose to most extreme violence, and on the coast and between the Yser and Douel (Lys), continued this morning to drumfire. Behind dense waves of fire the English infantry then advanced to the attack between Bisschoote and Ypres, on a front of eighteen kilometers.

In Arras the English attacked yesterday morning behind Bullock and Lens with four Canadian divisions. After the strongest wave they forced their way into our first position and sought, by the continual bringing up of fresh forces, to deepen the gap created in both sides of Loos.

According to orders found the object of their attack was the village of Verdun, which was situated four kilometers (two and a half miles) behind our front. In desperate fighting lasting all day the English troops pressed back and forth. The third line of our first position was broken into our lines, and the English made a small gain. In fresh waves the English again tried to break through, but the enemy's storming waves were repulsed. The English, who had advanced extremely heavy losses at all points of the battlefield, were repulsed.

Now the German is the after-

noon developed special firing activity. They threw shells by means of about 3,000 shells thrown on the inner town in setting the fire spread to the cathedral, which has been burning since 5:30 o'clock last evening.

Front of the German Crown Prince: In the center of the Chemin-des-Dames sector lively activity by both armies predominated throughout the day. After the failure of their attacks in the morning the French again attacked in the evening between Cervy and the Hurthele farm on a front of about five kilometers. Fluctuating fighting continued into the night. We remained in full possession of our positions. The vain onrushes of the enemy cost them much bloodshed. On the front north of Verdun the artillery duel again assumed great intensity in the morning. The French fire, however, was not as violent as on August 12 and 13.

(NIGHT).—The enemy assaults in Flanders, which extended over a front of thirty kilometers, has been shattered by heavy losses. The enemy has only been able to gain small local successes at Dreigachten, on the Yser Canal, and near Langemark, where fighting is still proceeding.

From St. Julien, northeast of Ypres, to as far as Warneton, on the Lys, the enemy everywhere was completely repulsed.

In Arras and near Verdun intense artillery duels are in progress.

ITALIAN FRONT

ROME, Aug. 16.—Military activity on the entire Austro-Italian front was limited to artillery firing. Nothing important took place.

AUSTRIAN

VIENNA, Aug. 16.—In the Italian theatre numerous air encounters occurred over the Isonzo Tuesday. Five enemy aviators were brought down. As a reprisal for the last aerial attack on Pola a large number of airplanes attacked the Maritime Arsenal at Venice early Tuesday morning.

Notwithstanding weather conditions, strong

German territory was over 1,000 yards.

The terrain over which the French advanced was most difficult, for on their right the Steenbeke River was in flood and on their left they were moving toward an inundated area and the ground was becoming marshier all the time. The German defences in this inhospitable zone consisted chiefly of fortified machine gun positions. These, however, were accounted for largely in the preliminary bombardment. The French met with little resistance and the operation was carried out with few casualties.

The portion of the Steenbeke the French crossed lies between a point west of Wijendrift and a bend in the river 1,600 yards north, a little southwest of St. Janshoek. On the east side of the river they met strong resistance at Champubert farm and at the Briehne house, both strongly fortified with machine gun nests. The French artillery was brought into play, and these strongholds were forced to surrender.

Dreigachten was occupied with little

gunfire and the enemy's defending aviators, ours met with very good success. We observed from a low altitude hits by heavy and light bombs, of which four tons were dropped. Conflagrations were observed.

Three of our airplanes were missing. The enemy torpedo unit retreated before our flotilla, which covered the aviators, and enemy bombs were dropped unsuccessfully on this flotilla and Farnuo (a seaport of Austria-Hungary in Istria).

East GERMAN

BERLIN, Aug. 16.—(DAY).—Front of Archduke Joseph: In the mountains south of the Trotsus Valley German and Austro-Hungarian troops, during pursuit engagements, broke down many times the resistance of enemy rearwards.

Front of Field Marshal von Mackensen: North of Stracani and Pantau Prussian and Bavarian regiments successfully wrung off numerous attacks by Rumanians and fresh Russian forces. On the Sereth, the enemy, who was still holding the western bank, was driven back over the river by a powerful attack by our troops. Fifty-four officers, including some Frenchmen, 3,500 men, sixteen guns and over fifty machine guns remained in our hands.

RUSSIAN

PETROGRAD, Aug. 16.—Western Russian front: Animated fusillades have taken place in the direction of Dvinsk, Vilna and Baranovichi.

Rumanian front: Between the Rivers Dniester and Pruth there has been lively artillery firing. In the direction of Sabresina one of our "Battalions of Death," by a dash-

ing assault, carried a series of positions five versts east of Mount Bermadiu. In the direction of Onie the enemy made no attack.

Frontier guard: Rumanian troops on the night of the 14th were withdrawn from the Kragoslava-Kosak-Lakul front to the line of Sovetsk-Monastirsk-Voloshkani.

During the night and the entire day of the 15th the enemy conducted a series of attacks in the valley of the Suchita and on the front of Voloshkani and Iretchideaux. All of them were repulsed by Rumanians, supported by our infantry.

In the direction of Fokshani, since the morning of the 15th, the Germans have renewed their offensive. More energetic attacks were directed against Stracani and Kruchestous. Under strong pressure from the Germans our troops retired to Munchellu Ammonas, while some Rumanian detachments retired to Movilla.

In the direction of Kharput the Turks, about a battalion and a half strong, with several thousand Kurds, after preparation began an offensive the morning of the 14th in the region of Mount Salvas Dag and Pelimer. The Kurds of Mount Salvas Dag did not succeed in moving forward a little.

In the direction of Mosul our troops beat off an attack by a Turkish band.

In the Baltic, in the region of the Aland Archipelago, a torpedo boat was blown up and destroyed by an enemy mine. Twenty-four men perished.

In the Gulf of Bothnia one of our submarines sank a German steamship.

German Casualty List

Now Exceeds 4,500,000

LONDON, Aug. 16.—German casualties reported during July in the German official lists, but not necessarily having occurred in July, aggregated 89,863, as follows:

Killed or died of wounds or sickness, 21,389.

Prisoners or missing, 14,820.

Severely wounded, 13,896.

Wounded and slightly wounded, 39,958.

The total German casualties of all classes since the beginning of the war exceeds 4,500,000.

Bolivia Installs President

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Aug. 16.—José Gutierrez Guerra, former Minister of War, was inaugurated President of Bolivia to-day.

Haig and Petain Drive Forward At Same Hour

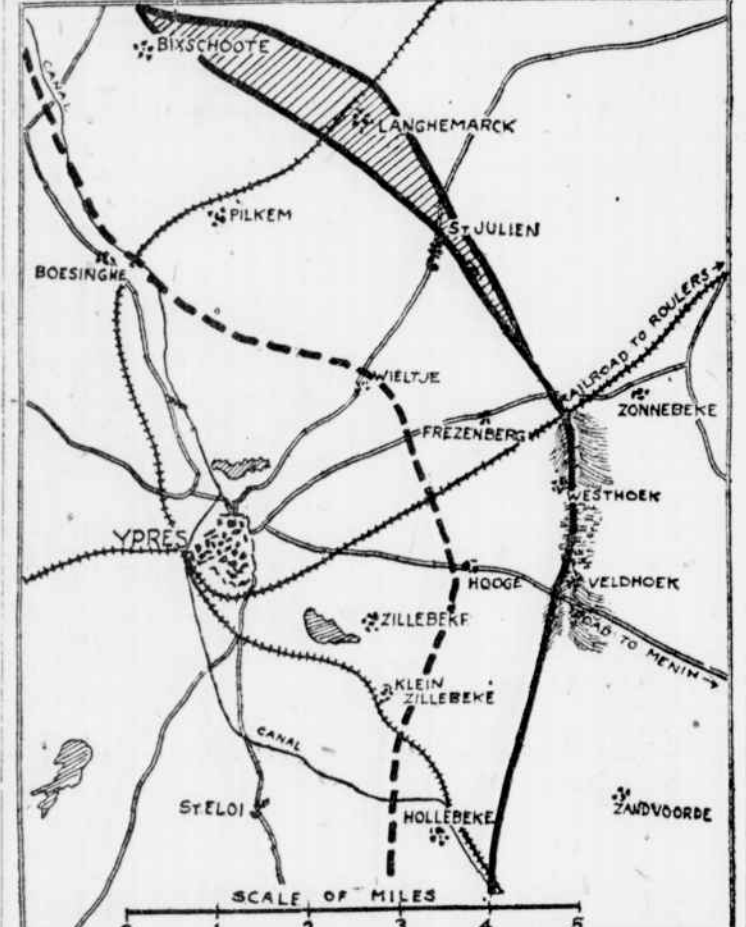
Allied Armies in Perfect
Contact During Smash-
ing Attack

Artillery Cleared Way

Heavy French Cannon Broke
Up Well Concealed Machine
Gun Nests

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE, Aug. 16.—The French attack in Flanders began at 4:45 o'clock this morning simultaneously with the British advance. The contact between the Allied armies was excellent throughout. The French completed the task mapped out for them in about one hour. The extreme depth which they penetrated into the

NEW ALLIED GAINS IN FLANDERS



The heavy black line shows the front from which the French and British advanced. The shaded area shows part of their progress in yesterday's fighting.

German territory was over 1,000 yards.

The terrain over which the French advanced was most difficult, for on their right the Steenbeke River was in flood and on their left they were moving toward an inundated area and the ground was becoming marshier all the time. The German defences in this inhospitable zone consisted chiefly of fortified machine gun positions. These, however, were accounted for largely in the preliminary bombardment. The French met with little resistance and the operation was carried out with few casualties.

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the or no resistance, as was virtually all the country south of that place. The French front now runs from Dreigachten along the left bank of the St. Janshoek River to a point of crossing below St. Janshoek, whence it runs southeast to a junction with the new British line.

The Germans had concentrated large bodies of troops in the Houthulst forest in anticipation of this attack, but

the French heavy guns bombarded the woods so effectively that it was impossible to bring up reserves. The German losses in the preliminary bombardment were severe, and the French already had accounted for 400 prisoners when the correspondent of The Associated Press visited their front at noon. The booty obtained by the French will be considerable, including a number of heavy guns which

stuck in the mud and were abandoned by the retreating Germans. Many machine guns also fell into the hands of the French.

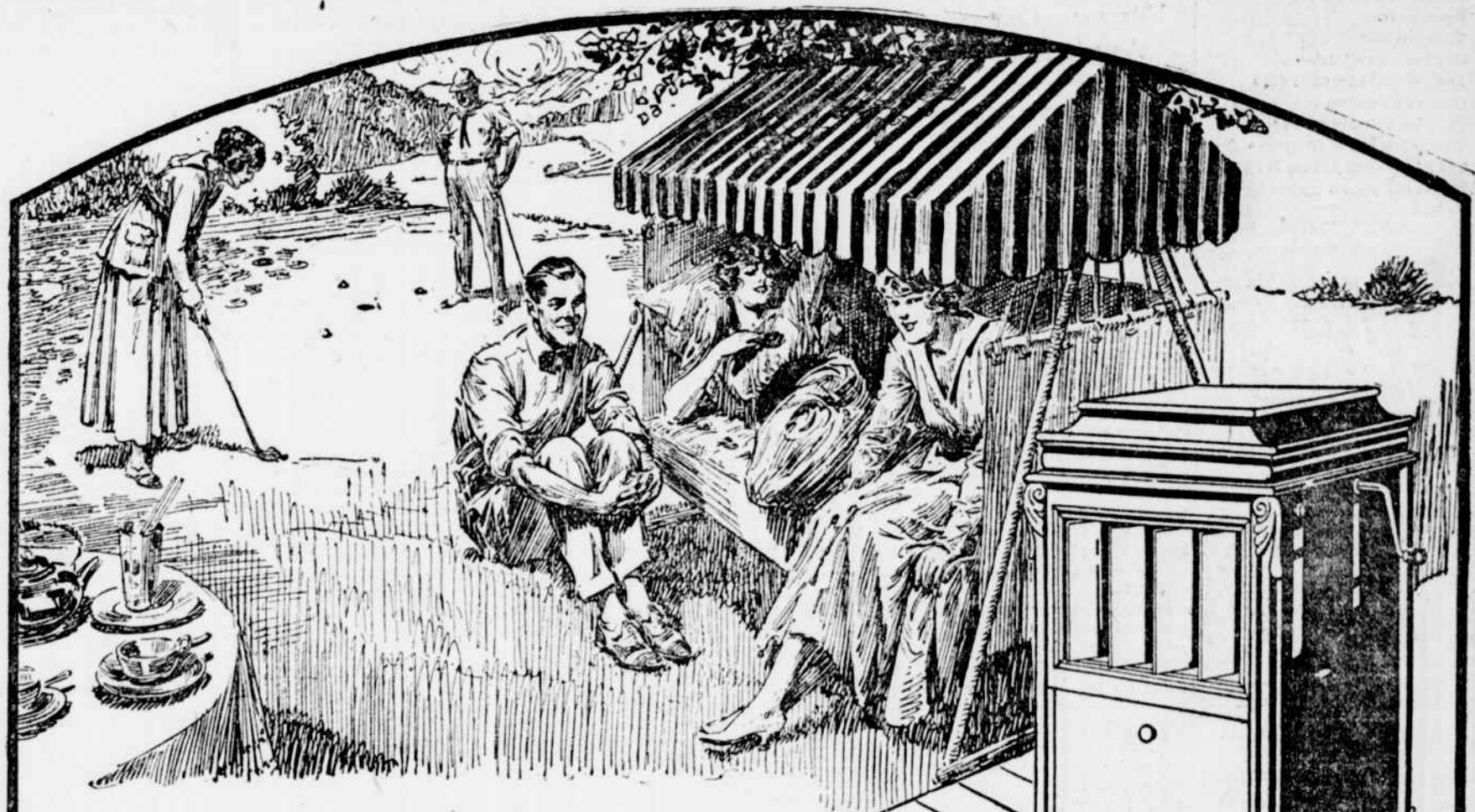
The barrage which the British artillery dropped before their infantry for the advance was perfect throughout. The German guns pounded away sullenly, but their fire was not effective and the British troops suffered little as they pushed forward.

In the Langemark region the main difficulty encountered was the mud in the approaches to the town and into this bog the infantry plunged deep at every step. Not infrequently the soldiers had to extricate a comrade who had sunk to the waist in the bog, but they continued to push forward steadily, facing machine gun fire from hidden redoubts and battling their way past with bombs and rifle fire.

Late to-night fighting was reported still in progress in the German trenches well beyond the village.

Thus the British came to Langemark. They were concrete gunpits about the position in front of the town and which was flooded from the Steenbeke River, but the infantry divided and bombed its way about either side of the town.

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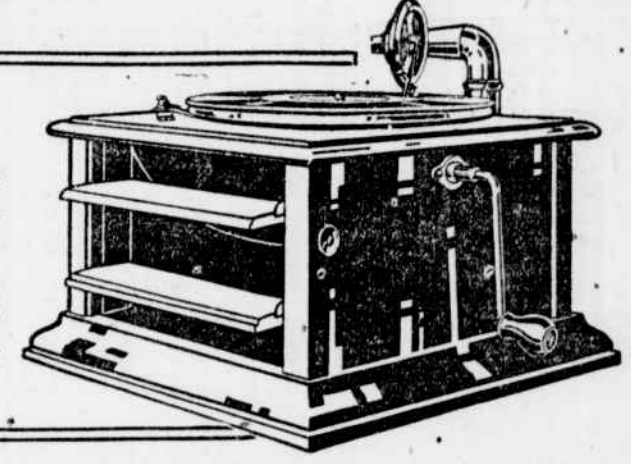
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